DOCKET NO.: MSFT-5046
Application No.: 10/752,384
Office Action Dated: March 17, 2008

PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 10-14 remain pending in the present application after amendment. Independent claim 1 has been amended, formerly independent claims 4, 10, and 13 have been amended to depend from claim 1, and claims 5-8, 11, and 12 have been amended. Claims 9 and 15-19 have been canceled. No claims have been added. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added to the application by the Amendment. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims.

Telephone Conversation With Examiner

Applicant's representative thanks Examiner Pham for the telephone conversation conducted on April 15, 2008. Proposed claim amendments were discussed. No agreements were reached.

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 is amended to more particularly point out and distinctly recite the subject matter of the present application and to incorporate subject matter from claim 10. Additionally, formerly independent claims 4, 10, and 13, are amended to depend from claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 USC § 103 as being obvious over various combinations of U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2005/0033742 (Kamvar), "Scaling Personalized Web Search" (Jeh), "Fast Computation Of Low Rank Approximations" (Achioptas), U.S. Patent No. 6,285,999 (Page), "An Analytical Comparison of Approaches To Personalizing PageRank" (Haveliwala). Applicants respectfully traverse the § 103 rejections insofar as they may be applied to amended claim 1 and all claims depending therefrom including claims 2-8 and 10-14.

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Kamvar, Jeh, Achioptas, Page, and Haveliwala, whether considered separately or in any combination, neither disclose nor suggest "the page-grading engine grades the web pages as grading objects from an interconnected collection of weighted objects by approximating the matrix Q with respect to a parameter k, by computing a matrix U_k, computing a matrix V_k, computing a diagonal matrix S, and defining Q' as the matrix product $V_k \, S \, U_k^{T}$" as recited in amended claim 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited references teaches developing rankings of web sites based on an approximation matrix Q' formed as recited in amended claim 1.

In view of the foregoing amendments and arguments, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing discussion, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application including claims 1-8 and 10-14 is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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